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SUBJECT

Population Growth of Guangzhou,
Canton, and Shanghai

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1. The city of Guangzhou is being expanded to a length of 50 kilometers. It will stretch from Tenghezhen (增城鎮) to the foot of Beigangzhan (北江). It is expected to have a population of three to four million people. All engineering projects will be planned by Foreign experts.
2. In June 1951 the Canton Government announced the figure of 1,800,000 as Canton's population. This compares with a population previously known to be about 1,400,000 to 1,500,000. There is no sound economic reason for this population growth. The economy of the city is being jar with industries declining, commerce suffering a serious reduction, and the unemployment figure running high.
3. During the past year the city of Shanghai has had a growth similar to that in Canton.

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1. [REDACTED] Comment. It is probable that Canton's growth occurred mainly during the last six months when the land reform program became effective. The growth may be composed of the landlords and the richer peasants who are purged by the land reform measures. There may also be many poor peasants who are displaced in the economic and social recruiting from the reforms. The recent orders from authorities in the land reform areas which forbid land owners from leaving the villages may be evidence in support of this theory.

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